

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An expansion tube having a plurality of expansion slits formed along a longitudinal direction on the outer peripheral surface thereof, each of the expansion slits having a predetermined width and a relatively larger length than the predetermined width;

wherein the plurality of expansion slits have lengths gradually increased along a direction to which the heat shrinkable tube is manufactured; and

wherein each of the plurality of expansion slits has a larger length in a range of 2.5 times to 5 times than the width thereof in an expansion section and a larger length in a range of 3.5 times to 10 times than the width thereof in a cooling section.

Claim 2. (Original) An expansion tube according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of expansion slits is in a generally rectangular shape.

Claims 3-4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Original) An expansion tube according to claim 1, wherein an interval of the adjacent left and right expansion slits is the width or less than each expansion slit with respect to the inner peripheral surface of the expansion tube.

Claim 6. (Original) An expansion tube according to claim 1, wherein an interval between the adjacent upper and lower expansion slits is in a range of 1/5 to 1/1 of the length of each expansion slit.

Claim 7. (Original) An expansion tube according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of the expansion slits have the same intervals.

Claim 8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Original) An expansion tube according to claim 8, wherein each of the plurality of expansion slits is in a generally rectangular shape.

Claims 10-11. (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Currently amended) An apparatus for manufacturing a heat shrinkable tube, having an expansion tube, comprising: a denser that is adapted to receive a heat shrinkable tube, while preventing the heat shrinkable tube from being loose; dry heating rolls that are adapted to heat the heat shrinkable tube ejected from the denser; an expansion chamber that is adapted to expand the heat shrinkable tube ejected from the dry heating rolls; a caterpillar that is adapted to have the heat shrinkable tube constant in diameter; and a bobbin that is adapted to wind the heat shrinkable tube ejected from the caterpillar, wherein the expansion chamber comprises the expansion tube in which the heat shrinkable tube is expanded to predetermined radius, a vacuum pump for discharging the air in the expansion tube, a cooling water pump for supplying cooling water to the expansion tube, a plurality of cooling water nozzles for spraying cooling water supplied ~~form~~from the cooling water pump, and a vacuum suction hole disposed between the wall surface of a body of the expansion chamber and the vacuum pump, for discharging the air in the expansion tube to the outside of the expansion chamber, and wherein the expansion tube has a plurality of expansion slits formed on the outer peripheral surface thereof along a longitudinal direction, each of the expansion slits having a predetermined width and a relatively larger length than the predetermined width; wherein an interval of the adjacent left and right expansion slits is the width or less of each expansion slit with respect to the inner peripheral surface of the expansion tube.

Claim 13. (Original) An apparatus for manufacturing a heat shrinkable tube according to claim 12, wherein each of the plurality of expansion slits is in a generally rectangular shape.

Claim 14. (Original) An apparatus for manufacturing a heat shrinkable tube according to claim 12, wherein each of the plurality of expansion slits has a width in a range of 1 mm to 3 mm.

Claim 15. (Original) An apparatus for manufacturing a heat shrinkable tube according to claim 12, wherein each of the plurality of expansion slits has a larger length in a range of 2.5 times to 5 times than the width thereof.

Claim 16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Original) An apparatus for manufacturing a heat shrinkable tube according to claim 12, wherein an interval between the adjacent upper and lower expansion slits is in a range of $1/5$ to $1/1$ of the length of each expansion slit.

Claim 18. (Original) An apparatus for manufacturing a heat shrinkable tube according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of the expansion slits have the same intervals.

Claim 19. (Original) An apparatus for manufacturing a heat shrinkable tube according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of expansion slits have lengths gradually increased along a direction to which the heat shrinkable tube is manufactured.

Claim 20. (Original) An apparatus for manufacturing a heat shrinkable tube according to claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of expansion slits is in a generally rectangular shape.

Claim 21. (Original) An apparatus for manufacturing a heat shrinkable tube according to claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of expansion slits has a width in a range of 1 mm to 3 mm.

Claim 22. (Original) An apparatus for manufacturing a heat shrinkable tube according to claim 20, wherein each of the plurality of expansion slits has a larger length in a range of 2.5 times to 5 times than the width thereof in an expansion section and a larger length in a range of 3.5 times to 10 times than the width thereof in a cooling section.